

MANHATTAN PROJECT II

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Washington, DC 20036
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Dear Representative,

As organizations long and deeply concerned over the threat of nuclear war and the problems of nuclear proliferation, we are writing to you with a great sense of urgency.

We believe that President Bush's unilateral initiatives and proposals on nuclear weapons begun on September 27, 1992 -- followed by similar initiatives from Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin -- present the world with the opportunity to end at long last the threat of nuclear war.

At the same time, however, we believe that the current proposals for mutual ceilings -- 4700 and 2500 warheads respectively -- offer far too high a level of warheads in view of the threat of nuclear proliferation, and with it the spreading danger of use of nuclear weapons by nations or terrorist groups.

Further dramatic changes in the numbers of U.S. nuclear weapons and stated policy concerning the production, testing and use of nuclear weapons are needed now if we are to seize the current opportunity.

We are initiating, therefore, a Manhattan Project II, to bring to the tasks of reducing and dismantling nuclear weapons, and preventing their proliferation and use, the same time frame and sense of urgency as the original Manhattan Project that built the first atomic bombs between 1942-1945. Our goal is to reduce the danger of nuclear war to near zero by the end of this century.

To this end, we believe the United States should, by August, 1995 or sooner, initiate a series of steps, make policy commitments, and seek comparable commitments from other nuclear states to:

- * Reduce nuclear warheads of the United States and Russia to well below 1000 each.
- * Join the Russian and French nuclear testing moratoria this year and sign a Comprehensive Test Ban.
- * Adopt a policy of no-first-use.

- * Eliminate tactical nuclear weapons.
- * Pursue confidence-building measures such as taking nuclear weapons systems off alert and separating nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles.
- * Preserve the ABM Treaty, narrowly interpreted.
- * Register and tag all nuclear weapons, subject to verification, and transport and store all nuclear weapons to be dismantled under bilateral or international safeguards.
- * End the production of fissile materials for weapons and put fissile materials recovered from dismantled warheads under international safeguards.
- * Seek universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and agree to strengthened anti-proliferation regimes with enhanced and non-discriminatory inspection.

Taken together and implemented with the utmost urgency, we believe these policy changes can decisively reduce the danger of nuclear war. We also believe that failure to make such changes will adversely affect United States security interests and the cause of world peace.

We ask you therefore to support policy changes of the sort outlined above. Legislation currently before Congress incorporating some of these principles includes HR 5209, the Stark-Evans bill for deep cuts in the numbers of nuclear weapons, and HR 3636, the Gephardt-Kopetski Nuclear Testing Moratorium Act. We urge you to vote for these measures.

Signatures

Alliance for our Common Future
 American Baptist Churches USA, Office of Governmental Relations
 American Friends Service Committee - Washington Office
 Americans for Democratic Action
 Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility
 Berlin Information Center for Transatlantic Security
 British American Security Information Council
 Committee for National Security
 Council for a Livable World
 Friends Committee on National Legislation
 Friends of the Earth
 Fund for New Priorities in America
 Greenpeace
 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
 International Women's Peace Initiatives
 Jesuit Social Ministries, National Office
 Mennonite Central Committee, Washington Office